

# **Mayor's Night Out**

## **University Responses**

**June 22, 2005**

**Hyatt Elementary School**

### **Advance announcements**

New UCR Police Chief Mike Lee announced that, after a long series of community meetings, it's been decided the UCR Orientation Week Block Party will be moving to a new venue on the interior of campus, to alleviate neighborhood traffic concerns.

### **Resident #1 -**

**a) 3396 Inverness, grass very tall and dead. The high weeds along the railroad tracks and along Watkins Drive, need to be taken care of.**

The Code Enforcement Division is working with property owner to resolve weed issues. If you have further questions, you may call the Code Enforcement Division at 826-5633.

**b) Watkins Drive is getting pretty rough**

Watkins Drive between Spruce Street and Big Springs Road is currently scheduled to be paved between the months of July 2005 and October 2005. The portion between Big Springs Road and the 215/60 highway is scheduled to be paved after the freeway construction is completed. If you have further questions, you may call Public Works Construction Contracts Administrator Daniel Ciacchella at 826-5889.

**c) The Mayor recognized we have a lot of kids in this town. We need another skate park.**

The City uses the Capital Improvements Plan process to identify and prioritize its Capital Projects on an annual basis. Generally this process is initiated in conjunction with the annual budget process in November of each year and is reviewed through a public meeting process with both the Park and Recreation Commission and City Council. There currently is no funding designated for the construction of another "skate park" facility within the park system. However, as a part of the La Sierra Park Rehabilitation project, working drawings are currently being prepared for such a facility to be located at the corner of Norwood and Mitchell Avenues. Once these plans are completed, the issue of providing funding for implementation of the plans will need to be addressed. For more information contact Principal Park Planner Bob Johnson at (951) 826-2018.

### **Resident #2 -**

**There are always students who want to be in a home. There's been an explosion of students in unregulated rental homes, with noise, traffic and litter. What's the plan to address that problem?**

The City will be employing a multi-faceted strategy to address challenges in the University neighborhood. The strategy includes the following components:

First, the City will educate property owners, residents and students about the requirements of the Riverside Municipal Code (RMC Section 16.10.020 K). This will include the mailing of an informational letter and brochure to property owners and residents within the next two weeks. The mailings illustrate potential problem areas such as restriction on rentals to no more than four students, in addition to owner property maintenance, parking, landscape trash/debris and noise. The Code Enforcement Division will also actively engage UCR students this fall when school begins through participation in Welcome Week and other orientation/back to school functions.

Secondly, the Code Enforcement Division, City Attorney's Office, Office of Neighborhoods, Riverside Police Department, University Neighborhood Enforcement Team (UNET) and University of California-Riverside have developed a list of problem properties. Each property will be inspected and appropriate enforcement action taken if required.

Thirdly, the City's Code Enforcement Division and Police Department, in conjunction with the UCR Police Department, will be launching an exciting pilot partnership in September designed to increase the effectiveness and visibility of code enforcement in the University Neighborhood. Code Enforcement Officer Ronald Williams will be fully dedicated and paired with a UNET officer to address only code enforcement matters. Work hours will be 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. It is anticipated that weekend hours will provide the opportunity to have greater personal interaction with residents when addressing issues.

Lastly, pending City Council authorization on July 26, Code Enforcement Officers and Parking Control Reps will be able to enforce on-street parking violations in the University Neighborhood starting in August. Such enforcement will improve safety and quality of life in the area. If you have further questions, you may contact our Code Enforcement office at (951) 826-5633.

### **Resident #3 -**

**The summary of Code Compliance calls distributed at Mayor's Night Out shows only one Code call for noise over the past year. Cannot accept this statistic, based on personal knowledge.**

This is accurate. The majority of noise complaints are calls received at night and addressed by the Riverside Police Department. If you would like to discuss this further you may call the Code Enforcement Division at (951) 826-5633.

The Riverside Police Department reported officers responded to 484 reported loud music or party calls in the University neighborhood, at night-time or early morning hours, during the same one-year time period. An additional 57 music and party noise-related calls came from a police reporting district in the Victoria neighborhood adjacent to UCR with a high student population.

**Resident #4 -**

**Why is the City of Riverside's Business License so expensive, in comparison to other cities in the area? I have a Riverside license (\$195), a Redlands license (\$24) and a San Bernardino license (\$60) and a City of Orange license (\$50), minimum fees in all cases.**

Each city will have its own criteria. The Riverside Business Tax for the business category in question (retail sales-gross receipts) is based on annual gross receipts, \$93.50 in this case, however, the resident's business address is located in the Downtown Improvement District, which requires an additional 100% of the business tax be paid and remitted to the Downtown Partnership. The business in question paid a total of \$187.00. For more information, contact Business Tax Supervisor Tom Gehrken at (951) 826-5465.

**Resident #5 -**

**What can the City do to help regulate the number of students within a single family dwelling, and the number of cars they can have?**

The City is in the process of notifying single-family residential property owners in the University Neighborhood as to the City's restriction on rentals to no more than four students in addition to the owner (RMC Section 16.10.020 K). The Code Enforcement Division of the Public Works Department will respond to all complaints, investigate and initiate enforcement action as appropriate. If you have further questions, you may contact our Code Enforcement office at (951) 826-5633.

**Resident #6 -**

**Can the City issue a permit or a business license to landlords, so we can control the number of students and cars in the University neighborhood?**

The City's business tax ordinance is not used to control the number of students and cars in the University Neighborhood. Please see the response to Resident #5.

In regard to parking problems, Preferential Permit Parking Permits can be issued by the Traffic Engineering Division of Public Works. For more information, contact Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366

**Resident #7 -**

**Wanted to compliment Sgt. Freese and the UNET team, who responded to all the problems I, and some of my neighbors, have had.**

From [www.community.ucr.edu](http://www.community.ucr.edu)

**University Neighborhood Enhancement Team**

The University Neighborhood Enhancement Team (UNET) is a cooperative effort between the University of California Police Department at Riverside and the Riverside Police Department.

Each agency has committed four officers and one sergeant to a 17-square-mile area surrounding the university. UNET responds to calls for service between the hours of 7 a.m. and 1 a.m. Team members work with students who rent single-family residences in the area. UNET uses the Riverside City Loud Party Ordinance to decrease the number of repeat visits by law enforcement and to quickly stop disturbances. Time and effort is spent helping the students understand how to be good neighbors. Contact the UNET team at (951) 686-7289. <http://police2.ucr.edu/unet-1.htm>

### **Resident #8 -**

#### **When will Watkins Drive be repaired?**

Watkins Drive between Spruce Street and Big Springs Road is currently scheduled to be paved between the months of July 2005 and October 2005. The portion between Big Springs Road and 215/60 is scheduled to be paved after the freeway construction is completed. If you have further questions, you may call Public Works Construction Contract Administrator Daniel Ciacchella at (951) 826-5889.

### **Resident #9 -**

**a) Residents live on corner of Broadbent and Watkins, where there is a stop sign, but no one stops there. They wonder about putting a speed bump in the vicinity of the stop sign, to get drivers to stop?**

A violation of stop signs is an enforcement issue. Riverside Police Traffic Lt. Ken Carpenter has been notified of this issue at Watkins and Broadbent.

In response to cars failing to stop for the stop sign at the corner of Broadbent and Watkins. UNET conducts a traffic enforcement project one day each month. The project is focused on the Watkins and Big Springs area. The next two (2) projects are scheduled for July 19th and August 10th beginning at 6 a.m. The stop sign violations at the corner of Broadbent and Watkins will be included in the enforcement project. The Riverside Police Traffic Division will also include the corner of Broadbent and Watkins in their traffic enforcement efforts.

Watkins Drive does not meet the criteria for speed humps because it is a wide street and the speed limit is too high for speed hump installation. If residents are interested in speed humps on Broadbent, contact Traffic Engineering Technician Diane Huggett at (951) 826-5366.

**b) There are blighted homes and yards in the area.**

Code Enforcement Officer Ronald Williams is currently conducting neighborhood inspections for problem properties. As these properties are identified, the property owners are being asked to bring them into compliance. Currently Officer Williams issued notices for lack of front yard maintenance to three addresses on Broadbent. Also, at Blaine and Watkins, the weeds and grass on the railroad easement have been referred to the Riverside County Transportation Department. Enforcement action will increase with the launch of the Code Enforcement Division/UNET

partnership in September. For more information contact UNET Code Compliance Officer Ron Williams at (951) 686-7291.

**Resident #10 -**

**Has the City have any plan to build a road from Linden across to Big Springs Road to alleviate congestion?**

The City does not have any plans to build a road from Linden to Big Springs. If you have further concerns, you may call Deputy Public Works Director Tom Boyd at (951) 826-5341.

While the City has no plans to build a road between Linden and Big Springs, west of Mt. Vernon, we have been approached by the property owner with a proposal to develop the site with a planned residential development. The representative did indicate a desire to build a road between Linden and Big Springs to serve the development. For more information, contact Planning Director Ken Gutierrez at (951) 826-5371.

**Resident #11 -**

**a) The neighborhood would be really impacted by a proposed new homes on Dr. Last's land -- a proposed 91-unit gated community. Suspect it would be very dense, but there are only three ways out of this community. It's too much.**

No plans have yet been submitted. The property owner has been advised to work with the neighborhood before making a formal submittal. The property owner has approached the City with a proposal to develop the site with a planned residential development. The representative indicated a desire to build a road between Linden and Big Springs to serve the development. For more information, contact Deputy Planning Director Craig Aaron (951) 826-5989.

**b) Traffic count equipment appeared disabled, and the traffic study was not done until after UCR was out of session. How will that give an accurate picture?**

The Planning Department and the developer agree that any traffic study needs to be done when school is in session to get a more accurate and realistic count.

**c) Can't get the street light at Nesbit and Mt. Vernon fixed.**

The street light at Nesbit and Mt. Vernon was fixed week of July 1, 2005.

**d) Concerned, specifically, about a "Peeping Tom" in Linden-Nesbit area.**

Regarding the "Peeping Tom" issue, UNET Officer Eric Detmer contacted the victim and found out that there had been only one "Peeping Tom" incident prior to MNO. Officer Detmer discussed CPTED (*Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design*) strategies with the victim/resident. Since that meeting there has been one additional "Peeping Tom" incident in the neighborhood. In an attempt to deter future incidents or capture the suspect, Officer Detmer and

other UNET officers will provide additional patrols in the area during the hours of darkness. For more information, contact Riverside Police Officer Eric Detmer at (951) 686.7291.

**Resident #12 -**

**North of Blaine, we have the same problems; there are 12 cars at one house. With the lines of cars, residents can't get anywhere.**

Notice was given at to an address in 500-block Glenhill for parking in the front yard. Code Compliance Officer Ron Williams could not locate a house with 12 vehicles. He also spoke with neighbors who were not able to identify the property in question. For more information contact UNET Code Compliance Officer Ron Williams at (951) 686-7291.

**Resident #13 -**

**Concerned about illegal parking, unsafe conditions and potential liability for the City. There are only two streets that have a parkway between the sidewalk and the roadway. All other walkways are slanted toward the road. This is treacherous for people with a disability. Local residents sometimes park so that vehicles overhang and obstruct the sidewalk, which prevents the disabled from using the sidewalk.**

The City's sidewalk standard requires a 2% grade or less. If these are older sidewalks, this may not be the case. The Public Works department will come out and evaluate the situation.

Meanwhile, Traffic Sergeants Don Taulli, Duane Beckman and UNET Sergeants Randy Stump and John Freese will address the illegal parking issues and local residents parking their vehicles, which overhang and obstruct the sidewalk, which prevents the disabled from using the sidewalk. For more information, contact Riverside Police Traffic Division at (951) 826-5576

**Resident #14 -**

**With growth and a new apartment complex at corner of Mt. Vernon and Big Springs, resident noticed a drop in water pressure since apartment came on line. Can this be fixed?**

The service provided to the new apartment complex should have no effect on area residents. Water pressure was recorded on Hillandale Court over a 24-hour period beginning June 30 at 3 p.m. No significant pressure fluctuations were recorded. Customer should contact 24-hour dispatch center to check meter and household plumbing if this problem persists. For more information, contact Principal Water Engineer Kevin Milligan at (951) 826-5793.

**Resident #15 -**

**We are landlords but we have a ton of restrictions on our tenants, would like to see some enforcement of other landlords. Need to fix houses in disrepair, limit cars, demand accountability from renters.**

Most of these concerns are best addressed through enforcement of the City's Exterior Property Maintenance Ordinance by the Code Enforcement Division. Contact Code Enforcement at (951) 826-5633.

The resident utilizes several commercially available resources to guide landlords, but also uses an allowable addendum, and attaches a copy of the UCR Good Neighbor Policy to the rental agreement. The landlord assumes responsibility for yard maintenance and keeps in contact with neighbors. She requires agreement for care and maintenance routines and parents of minor tenants to co-sign and accept financial responsibility for rent and all terms of the contract.

**Resident #16 -**

**a) Corner of Blaine and Iowa: Why is that intersection so shabby? It is always littered and full of weeds.**

Upon investigation of this report, the Solid Waste Division determined the majority of the problem was on/adjacent to the public rights-of-way. As a result, the area cleared of litter/debris by the Solid Waste Division's weekend crew on the weekend of June 25-26. The Solid Waste Division has added this location to the sites regularly patrolled by its Trash Mitigation Crew. Additionally, the Code Compliance Division will monitor for trash/debris and weeds and take appropriate enforcement activity when necessary. Code Compliance can be reached at (951) 826-5633.

**b) Why have these corners never been developed?**

Good news! A development proposal was recently approved for a Baker's Restaurant and a Grease Monkey Lube and Tune at the southwest corner of Blaine and Iowa. In addition, a small retail center with a Starbucks at the southeast corner of Blaine and Iowa was approved by the Planning Commission and is pending City Council review. No plans have been submitted for the vacant property at the northeast corner of this intersection. For more information, contact Senior Planner Clara Miramontes at (951) 826-5277.

**Resident #17 -**

**How about absentee landlords, out of town: Who contacts the landlords when their student tenants become unruly? Shouldn't be the neighborhood's responsibility. Can there be a fine?**

UNET sent a list of documented problem student houses to the City Attorney's office. The City Attorney plans to send the landlords a written notice of the municipal codes governing the number of unrelated tenants living in the same house.

Riverside Police East Area Commander Lt. Alex Tortes will also direct SPSR (Police Service Representative) Shene Turner to provide "Project Safe Streets" information to residents who are impacted by unruly student tenants.

Starting in September 2005, there will be a Code Enforcement officer assigned to UNET. The Code Officer will address problem houses as they occur. The Code Enforcement officer can issue a citation to tenants of a problem house and a fine can be imposed for municipal code violations if the problem(s) are not corrected. For more information, contact UNET Code Enforcement Officer Ron Williams at (951) 686-7291, or the Riverside Police 24-hour On Duty Watch Commander at (951) 351-6050.

### **Resident #18 -**

**UCR's Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) says the University and the City have already agreed to rezoning or redevelopment to enable growth of UCR. What rezoning or redevelopment plans exactly does the City have for the University neighborhood?**

The LRDP was prepared by UCR as a blueprint for growth on campus; it does not propose any development except on UCR property. The City currently has no plans to rezone property in the University neighborhood. However, we will be commencing a Neighborhood Plan for the University neighborhood in September. The Neighborhood Plan will be done in conjunction with the University neighborhood residents and UCR.

Although the Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) states that the City had prepared an addendum to the University Community Plan to address a variety of issues related to UCR's long range plans, this has not happened yet. An update is planned, but not until after UCR adopts its LRDP. The City has provided comments to UCR related to several concerns with the impacts of the planned expansion of the campus. The comments were reviewed by the City Council at its June 7 public hearing and forwarded to UCR for its use.

At the Mayor's Night Out, the Mayor announced that the University Community Plan, which will be known as the University Neighborhood Plan in the future, would be updated following the adoption of the UCR LRDP by the UC Regents, which is expected to happen in early September. Until this happens, there are no planned zoning changes in the neighborhoods surrounding UCR. At the time the City is ready to begin the update, the University neighborhood residents will be notified of opportunities to provide comments and guidance to the City to help update the Plan.

The only portion of the University neighborhood that falls within a Redevelopment Project Area is University Avenue. On May 17, a presentation was made to the City Council/Redevelopment Agency on the long range improvement plans for the University Avenue corridor.

Copies of both the May 17 and June 7 staff reports and associated informational items are available through the City Clerk's office if you wish to see the full details of each one. Contact persons: Redevelopment Coordinator Joel Belding at (951) 826-5852, and Senior Planner Diane Jenkins at (951) 826-5625.

From UCR: The LRDP refers to city plans to rezone and redevelop with mixed uses on University Avenue. The redevelopment issue relates to the University Avenue Specific Plan, the Marketplace Plan, the Downtown Plan and the University Community Plan which has been



studied in conjunction with the LRDP. The University Neighborhood Plan will start up fall 2005, as noted by the City Planning Director. (also see response to Resident #26)

The city recognizes the need to use the growth anticipated in Riverside and the university to create a demand for mixed use development on vacant or underutilized parcels of land primarily along the University Avenue but also in the University Community Plan area and Downtown areas. In general concept, the university supports this notion, which would increase activity levels at all hours of the night in residential/office/retail development such as University Village. It is a city plan; UCR supports the concept and hopes to be a participant. For more information, contact Chris Buydos, Executive Director, Government & Community Relations and Technology Collaboration at UCR, at (951) 827-8324, or Principal Planner Diane Jenkins at (951) 826-5625.

**Resident #19 -**

**There's a loud noisy car that goes in and out of Lyon Ave. Somehow, we need to take care of this.**

When the noisy car is activated a Lyon Ave. resident needs to call the police or UNET so they can respond to the area and take the appropriate enforcement action. It would be helpful to make note of information as vehicle make, model, color, license number and time that the problem occurs. For additional information, contact UNET at (951) 686-7291.

**Resident #20 -**

**Hyatt Elementary in desperate need for restriping, red curbing, for traffic, and irrigation to keep hills safe from fire.**

A Walk Safe Drive Smart Review of Hyatt Elementary School was conducted on June 7, 2005. Work orders have been issued to refresh all school pavement markings and striping, red curbs and crosswalks. All school signing will be replaced with high visibility signs. A four-way stop will be installed at Mt. Vernon Avenue and Manfield St. If you have further questions, you may call Field Operations Manager Danilo Batson at (951) 351-6127.

The City's weed abatement contractor turned under accumulated dry weeds in the firebreak between Hyatt school and the nearby hillsides during the week of July 11-15, 2005.

**Resident #21 -**

**Resident is concerned about gang activity on the Eastside.**

Although there are very few gang-related incidents in the UCR area, UNET works closely with the Riverside Police Department Gang Unit to address all gang-related incidents in the UNET area. Lt. Alex Tortes, the East NPC Commander, is working closely with the Gang Unit, Eastside community leaders and residents, other city departments, schools, service and religious groups, to impact gang issues in the Eastside community.

**Resident #22 -**

**The plan to fix Watkins is unacceptable, and Blaine and Mt. Vernon avenues are torn up because of cars and buses. We need action sooner.**

The portion between Big Springs Road and 215/60 is scheduled to be paved after the freeway construction is completed. Watkins between Spruce Street and Big Springs Road is currently scheduled to be paved between the months of July and October 2005. If you have further questions, you may call Public Works Construction Contract Administrator Daniel Ciacchella at (951) 826-5889.

**Resident #23 -**

**Could the City impose two-hour parking to Watkins Drive between Blaine and Valencia Hills so UCR students and staff cannot park there all day?**

A resolution must be adopted by City Council to change the hours of parking on a city street. Limiting or removing parking in the University of California, Riverside (UCR) area would impact the available parking in nearby residential neighborhoods as drivers seek out the nearest available free parking. If residents have concerns regarding parking in their neighborhood, please contact Traffic Engineering to discuss other possible solutions such as Preferential Permit Parking. You may call Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366.

**Resident #24 -**

**a) Resident lives on top side of a slope, house was in the City at that time, formerly County jurisdiction. The residents live above people who own the slope but they don't maintain it. We want to ensure we keep the slope free of slippage. They have thrown wildflower seed onto the slope to stabilize it. Need to have some enforcement**

Notice has been given to 541 Spruce for non-maintained slope area. A re-inspection date of July 18, 2005 has been assigned. If you have further questions, you may contact our Code Enforcement office at (951) 826-5633

**Resident #25 -**

**a) Successfully got big rigs banned from Watkins Drive. We really need to get signs back and get enforcement. See double tractor trailers going up and down residential streets. Can we get a similar ban for Mount Vernon, from Blaine to Watkins?**

The City can prohibit commercial vehicles in excess of 10,000 pounds from entering a city street. In order to establish a weight restriction for trucks, a resolution must be adopted by City Council. If you have further questions you may call the Traffic Engineering Division of Public Works at (951) 826-5366.

UNET, Field Operations and Traffic personnel will enforce the new Riverside Municipal Code which prohibits big rigs parking on city streets. In addition to enforcement during their regular patrols, UNET officers do a coordinated enforcement of the "big rig" ban on Watkins during their monthly traffic enforcement program. The Traffic Division and UNET will conduct enforcement projects in the Mt. Vernon, Blaine and Watkins area, looking for big rigs that violate the posted weight limits. Unfortunately, any big rigs related to UCR construction projects that are contiguous with Watkins or Valencia Hills are temporarily exempt from the ban. When the temporary ban is lifted UNET will work with the code enforcement officer and the Traffic Engineering Department to approve signs for Mt. Vernon and Blaine limiting the weight of big rigs utilizing residential streets. For additional information, contact UNET at (951) 686-7291.

**b) There's a big pothole on West Big Springs Road just beyond the entrance to UCR, hazardous navigation. City did some work just feet away but didn't fix that spot.**

The area was checked, but no large potholes were found. There were a few rough spots Public Works patch crews will fix. The area that the crews were working in appears to have been something underground related. The repair to asphalt is in good condition. If you have any further questions, you may call Field Operations Manager Danilo Batson at 351-6127.

**c) The community lost the Eastside Police storefront at the Cesar Chavez Center and understand is UNET leaving University Village. Are we losing all of our storefronts? Can the neighborhood get notification when that decision is made?**

The decision has already been made to close all the storefronts. The Community Service Representatives will be relocated at existing police facilities. Due to rising rental costs, UNET will be leaving University Village in the near future. UNET is not leaving the neighborhood, the UNET office will be relocated in the existing UNET area. For additional information, contact UNET at (951) 686-7291. Should a move or relocation take place, the University can place this information on the [www.community.ucr.edu](http://www.community.ucr.edu) website.

**Resident #26 -**

**We hear all kinds of things about UCR growth: that there are deadlines for input, there will be use of eminent domain. Are you trying to surprise us? Can we get informed of plans before it's too late?**

University growth and the Long Range Development Plan are the responsibility of UCR. There is no eminent domain considered in the campus LRDP.

**Campus Growth & the Long Range Development Plan:** UCR has embarked on a decade of 6% annual growth -- that means an anticipated student enrollment of 21,060 students by the year 2010 and the potential for 25,000 students by 2015. This is the "echo" of the baby boom that hit higher education in the 1960s and 1980s. This growth is expected to increase system-wide UC student enrollment by 38% in the coming decade.

UC Riverside is in the final stage of its update to the 1990 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) and an accompanying Draft Environmental Impact Report, the two guiding documents for the physical growth of the campus. (Also see the response to Resident #18)

As for eminent domain, the Long Range Development Plan only applies to campus land proper and does not identify any plans for potential properties outside of the current boundaries and current ownership of UC Regents. There is no eminent domain considered in the campus LRDP. Again, all development proposed by the 2005 LRDP takes place on existing university lands.

**Public Review of the 2005 UC Riverside Long Range Development Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report** has been extended from June 13, 2005 to 5 p.m. on July 28, 2005 at the UCR Capital & Physical Planning Office, 3637 Canyon Crest Dr. F-101. Hard copies of the documents are available for review at the Capital & Physical Planning Office, Rivera Library (Reserve Desk), Riverside Main Library (Reference Desk) at 3581 Mission Inn Avenue, and at the Eastside Cybrary at 4016 Chicago Avenue. The documents are also available on line at [www.lrdp.ucr.edu](http://www.lrdp.ucr.edu) and in CD format at the Capital & Physical Planning Office. Comments may be e-mailed to [lrdep@ucr.edu](mailto:lrdep@ucr.edu). For additional information call (951) 827-2433.

#### **Resident #27 -**

**Resident hears there are going to be two future Metrolink stations in the neighborhood. Why does UCR need two Metrolink stations?**

The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) has addressed this issue with the University Neighborhood Association on two separate occasions and has also conducted two public meetings on future Metrolink plans as plans to extend Metrolink service to Perris continue to evolve. The most recent community meeting was last year. RCTC's current plans call for the Perris Valley Line extension to begin service after 2008 after the completion of the environmental process, design and rail line upgrades and station development.

Regarding future stations, preliminary plans identify the possibility for a Metrolink station at Spruce Street and a much smaller "kiss and ride" station at UC Riverside. The UC Riverside location would not have parking and would be designed for local residents who could walk, get a ride or bicycle to the station and could be accessed by students, faculty and staff. We recognize that the UC Riverside location is near a sensitive residential area and it is not intended to accommodate passengers who would drive from other areas who could instead either use a new station at Spruce or the future Alessandro Station.

The key thing to remember is that these options are still being evaluated as part of an environmental process. The draft environmental assessment was sent to the City of Riverside and we have received comments from city staff. Most importantly, station plans have not been finalized. Currently RCTC owns and operates five Metrolink train stations in Riverside County. Although planning activities for the additional stations is continuing, it does not mean that all of the stations have to open at the same time that service begins.

Metrolink is operated by the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA), a five-county Joint Powers Authority. RCTC is one of the five members and is responsible for funding and planning service in Riverside County.

In evaluating the importance of Metrolink, it is important to note the benefit of the service to the entire city. Riverside is served by three separate rail lines that provide service to Los Angeles and Orange County locations where many city residents work. Metrolink stations have also added a great deal of benefit to the city with increased development near the Downtown station and the location of a solar generating facility in the parking lot of the La Sierra station. Unlike the other four counties in the Metrolink system, local cities in Riverside County are spared operational costs for the station sites because RCTC owns and operates the stations. This includes an annual investment of \$1.2 million for maintenance and security at our station locations, which are considered among the best in the Metrolink system.

For more information, contact RCTC Rail Department Manager Stephanie Wiggins at (951) 787-7141 or via e-mail at [swiggins@rctc.org](mailto:swiggins@rctc.org).

### **Resident #28 -**

**Concerned about police noise complaint procedure, and civilians having to press charges to shut down a party. Can't the City charge homeowners for repeat visits for noise complaints? Haven't heard back since the last Mayor's Night Out.**

Lt. Jim Walters, Night Watch Commander, revisited the noise complaint issue and provided additional training on the applicable sections of the Riverside Municipal Code and the Penal Code: RMC 7.35, 9.07.040 & 050, and PC 415.

Officers have been instructed they may issue a citation for excessive noise under RMC 7.35 during first response and any subsequent response, regardless of whether or not anyone wishes contact or will sign a complaint. Officers were further instructed to issue the party flier during that same response, informing the responsible person that additional police responses will cause monetary costs to be assessed by the city. Second (or more) responses would trigger this assessment of costs. These actions are consistent with RPD Manual of Policy and Procedures Section 4.39.

The issue of shutting down a party requires the "consent" of the person responsible for the party. Previously mentioned RMC and Penal Code sections describe in detail the process for initiating an arrest of the responsible party, including the need for the "victim" to initiate a private party arrest for PC 415. If criminal violations are observed by the responding officer(s) the party can be "shut down," and the responsible party arrested without the necessity of a civilian pressing charges. It is foreseeable that a party could be so large, and the nuisance created so oppressive and burdensome, that the PD might elect to disperse the party against the wishes of the responsible party and without a PC 415 arrest; this would be an exception and not a routine practice. For more information, call East Area Commander Lt. Alex Tortes at (951) 351-6074.

**Resident #29 -**

- a) When will work be completed on the bridge construction at Iowa and Linden? Floodlights are very bright.**

The bridge construction at Iowa and Linden is expected to be complete around mid-September. If you have further concerns you may call Traffic Engineer Fran Dunajski at (951) 826-5366.

Initially, the expected re-open timeframe for the Iowa Avenue and Linden Street Bridges was mid to late August. However, due to the interest from the Chamber and RUSD to accelerate the construction of the Blaine Street Bridge, this date has changed. In preparation for the Blaine Street construction, there are some utility issues being addressed with the gas company that involve the Iowa Avenue Bridge. Unfortunately, this has caused a delay for the contractor to complete the final work on both Iowa and Linden. The revised timeframe for the re-opening of the Iowa Avenue and Linden Street Bridges is mid to late September 2005. If you have further questions, you may contact Ruben Campos, Construction Liaison for Caltrans, at (909) 383-6291.

- b) Resident is fearful of nearby gang activity. Called 911 anonymously to report activity at a known drug apartment. Had to deny calling police when confronted, for safety reasons. Officer and dispatch discussed my call in front of the suspect tenant, with information I felt put me in danger.**

This issue was discussed with Dispatch supervision. A citizen may request "No contact" from a member of the police department. If this request is not honored the citizen should contact Dispatch supervision or the On Duty Watch Commander and ask why it was necessary for him/her to be contacted. Each incident is reviewed, case by case. For more information, contact Riverside Police Dispatch Supervision at (951) 787-7911 or the Riverside Police 24-hour On Duty Watch Commander at (951) 351-6050.

- c) At the corner of Blaine and Iowa are construction trucks, parked next to the church. There is a bad smell to the water seeping from them.**

The Industrial Waste Division of Public Works conducted an onsite inspection; no water trucks or heavy equipment were parked next to the church leaking water or fluids of any sort. All heavy equipment appeared to be in operation at the Iowa freeway bridge demolition/reconstruction. A dirt lot near the church appeared to have no vehicles matching the complaint description. The field appeared to be a storage/holding area for fill dirt and asphalt for the construction project. No visible staining in the dirt area from vehicle fluids was found and there was no foul odor noticed in the curb and gutter area on Iowa Avenue near the church. If you have further questions you may call Industrial Waste Inspector Al Pielin at (951) 351-6145.

**Resident #30 -**

- a) According to a December 3, 2004 article in the Press-Enterprise, low income customers with an average monthly use of 600 kw will pay 12% more with Riverside Public Utilities than with Southern California Edison. Why is that?**

Residential electric customers who conserve energy and are eligible to take advantage of Riverside Public Utilities' low-income bill assistance SHARE program pay about 20 % less than those with Edison. Customers who do not conserve energy may pay more.

**b) On November 9, 2004, California Voters overwhelmingly approved Prop. 59, ensuring the public's ability to inspect government records, such as a public official's appointment calendars, schedules and meeting logs. Does the Mayor do this?**

The Mayor has voluntarily made his calendar available for public review each week and has done so for more than 10 years.

**Resident #31 -**

**a) Resident lives near the University neighborhood and had 6 students living nearby. Advises to communicate with student neighbors.**

Please see the responses to Residents #2 and #5.

**b) Circulated a petition to get permit-only parking on our street. What are the next steps in the process?**

The procedure for Preferential Permit Parking is as follows:

1. A majority of residents must sign a petition requesting preferential permit parking on their street.
2. Submit signed petition to City of Riverside, Traffic Engineering Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522
3. City staff schedules and presents issue to Parking, Traffic and Streets Commission.
4. If approved by the Parking, Traffic and Streets Commission and the City Council, residents will receive Preferential Parking Permit Applications that must be filled out and signed by each resident requesting a permit. Each resident is entitled to one permit per vehicle registered to the permit address, plus one guest. A copy of vehicle registration indicating that a vehicle is registered to the permit address must also be provided. Permits will not be issued to vehicles registered to an address other than the permit address.

If you have further questions regarding this process, you may call the Traffic Engineering Division at 826-5366.

**c) When apartment developers go before Planning, require that the developer provide enough parking to allow for tenants, guests and move-in trucks.**

Thanks for the comment. We will closely evaluate parking needs for apartments, especially student apartments, as projects are submitted. For more information, contact Principal Planner Diane Jenkins at (951) 826-5625.

**Resident #32 -**

**We need limitations on rentals. Homeownership has declined in this area. Would love to see a way to develop a mandate for careful management. Communicate with tenants. Is there a provision for licensing and limiting the number of tenants? If not, how can we establish one?**

Currently there is no provision for licensing tenants. However, the Zoning Code does limit the number of rented rooms to no more than four persons. This topic will be closely evaluated as part of the upcoming University Neighborhood Plan. Not only will we work closely with the University neighborhood and UCR in the development of this plan, we will also look at best practices around the country. For more information, contact Principal Planner Diane Jenkins at (951) 826-5625. Additionally, Council Member Ameal Moore added, we must build more affordable homes for the middle and lower income brackets.

**Resident #33 -**

**Can we put a City park by Islander Pool?**

The City currently owns approximately 18 acres of undeveloped park land immediately adjacent to and easterly of the Islander Pool site. This land was acquired with the intent of developing a "community" park site. Such a facility would typically include construction of lighted sports fields, community center, on-site parking, and other amenities for organized recreational purposes. However, since the time this park land was acquired, various representatives of the University Neighborhood have advised the Department that they would prefer to see this site used as a "nature park." More recently, it appears there is growing community interest in providing a small "neighborhood" park setting at this site of about an acre in size, with the balance of the site to be maintained as a natural area.

The Park and Recreation Department is willing to further discuss such ideas with the community and to seek opportunities to better meet the needs of both the neighborhood and the community at large. One idea that has been suggested is to see if the County Parks Department would be interested in assuming responsibility for whatever portion of the site is established as a "nature park" in exchange for the City assuming responsibility for County-owned park lands that could be used for more intensive recreational purposes that would in turn meet the needs of the community at large for that type of facility. If a small portion of the Islander site is retained by the City, together with the existing pool complex, a neighborhood park with picnic facilities and a children's playground could be provided at Islander, subject to the availability of funding. For more information contact Principal Park Planner Bob Johnson at (951) 826-2018

**Resident #34 -**

**a) Last year neighbors pulled 5-8 tons of trash out of Islander Park. When should we expect garbage cans and recycling containers at the entrance to the park, to cut down on litter?**



Staff will be assigned to regularly check the area for illegally discarded trash and debris. Park staff do not believe that placement of trash receptacles will prevent the trash, as the majority of the trash is yard clippings, tree debris and miscellaneous furniture. For further information contact Park Superintendent Shirley Bennett at (951) 351-6149.

**b) Called 311, (the City's non-emergency help-line: 826-5311) three times about discarded couches at Islander Park, under the pepper trees. There has been no action.**

The 311 Call Center is a new system for the City of Riverside, unveiled in 2004. New procedures sometimes clashed with past practice for some City departments. Most issues have since been resolved. This resident's calls have generated work orders:

SRO # 4549 Closed by Street Services - trash, debris and furniture picked up June 28, 2005. A Call Center representative spoke to the resident, who acknowledged that the items were picked up and that he had received a return phone call from Andy Guerrero in Public Works-Street Services. The area was cleared the day after Mayor's Night Out.

As for the request to have trash cans available for pedestrians in Islander Park, SRO # 4791 was redirected by Parks & Rec to Code Compliance in error (the SRO is pending). The Call Center redirected the SRO back to Park & Rec Admin and asked that they call the resident to discuss the issue further (see Response 34a). For more information, contact Riverside Connected Call Center Supervisor Donna Arrechea at (951) 826-5311.

**c) There are no traffic controls in park. People think it's a through way.**

Public Works will evaluate within the next two weeks what preventive measures can be taken to deter vehicles from illegally entering the park and dumping debris. Please also add that in the last 30 days, Public Works has installed 25 illegal dumping signs in the University Neighborhood in an attempt to deter illegal dumping. The signs read: "No Dumping, Riverside Municipal Code 9.30, Vehicle Subject to Forfeiture." For more information contact Deputy Public Works Director Siobhan Foster at (951) 826-5568.

#### **Resident #35 -**

**a) Some years ago, neighbors sued to prevent the City from taking Islander Park for retention basins. The community asked for barriers to keep people going in and continue dumping in the park. The resident feels the City is intentionally trying to let the park deteriorate so people will be happy to let it go.**

The Park and Recreation Department will look into the installation of an iron gate at the dirt road entrance; because of cost constraints, funding may not be available for the installation of fencing along the entire length of the perimeter. There are no plans for retention basins on this site. (Also see the Response to Resident 34c) For more information, contact Park Superintendent Shirley Bennett, at (951) 351-6149 or Deputy Public Works Director Siobhan Foster at (951) 826-5568.

- b) **When planning for a residential development above the park, why was the traffic survey done after students have left on break? This will give an intentionally misleading result.**

The Traffic Engineering Division has not conducted any recent traffic surveys in this area. Traffic Engineering Division does not conduct traffic studies for developers or consultants. A consulting firm hired by the developer conducted the traffic count. Also see the response to Resident #11. If you have further questions, contact Traffic Engineering at (951) 826-5366.

**Resident #36 -**

**Can we put speed bumps on Nesbit Way?**

Residents interested in obtaining speed humps on their street should contact Traffic Engineering Technician Diane Huggett at (951) 826-5366 to initiate the process

**Resident #37 -**

**Was the June 13 shooting at University Village gang related, or was it racially motivated?**

The June 13th shooting at University Village was possibly gang/race related. We can only speculate that the shooting was gang/race related because the victim and witnesses are not cooperative. The out-of-town victim does not want charges filed. For more information, contact Riverside Police East Area Commander Lt. Alex Tortes at (951) 351-6074.

**Resident #38 -**

**Homeless people are gathering under the trees in the undeveloped park (Mt. Vernon). What can the City do to help with this problem?**

The City of Riverside can visit the homeless and offer them services through an outreach team, which the City's Homeless Coordinator will arrange. The police can check the location for illegal activity. If the location is private property the police will need to get permission of the owners to enter the property. If the homeless are on public property, and not in violation of a law, then they have a right to be at the park. An outreach team goes out and offers services. For more information, call the City Homeless Coordinator Joan Thirkettle at (951) 826-5615.

UNET conducted a homeless encampment enforcement project in May 2005. They located numerous encampments. UNET and the new code officer, just assigned exclusively to UNET, will go out to the undeveloped park (Mt. Vernon) and clean up any illegal encampments of homeless they find. Contact UNET Sergeants Rusty Stump or John Freese at (951) 686-7291.

**Resident #39**

- a) **Resident is from Ward 1, the northern part of the neighborhood. How do we get a grocery store in our neighborhood?**

The Development Department business attraction team is actively working with several supermarket chains to promote a store in Riverside's Northside. There is definitely interest in a Northside location, but there needs to be a new neighborhood retail development project there to be able to locate a 50,000 sq.ft. supermarket. Action has been undertaken by the Development Department to determine locations for such a center.

The site location standards for grocery stores follow corporate criteria. Essentially, three components are needed; land area (generally 10+ acres for a grocery store anchored neighborhood shopping center -- stand alone grocery stores are seldom seen now), entitlements (zoning, etc.), and sufficient trade area (enough shoppers with disposable income within a couple of miles of the grocery store, and not too much competition). This formula is private-market driven, and not really too strongly influenced by City incentives. If the trade area is too small, no amount of City incentives will overcome this obstacle. If land is unavailable, the Redevelopment Agency can assist in land assembly. If land is not zoned for a grocery store, the City could rezone land accordingly. At this time, not all three components are in place in the Northside to induce a grocery store to locate in the neighborhood.

As the neighborhood continues to be built out with more new homes, it is likely that the City's Economic Development marketing efforts will pay-off with the establishment of a new grocery store in the Northside neighborhood. Recent contact with grocery stores are encouraging in that interest in the Northside neighborhood is becoming stronger with the additional homes added to the neighborhood in the past few years.

University neighborhood has similar conditions to the Northside. Without fairly substantial new residential development, a grocery store locating in or near this neighborhood is unlikely. The Development Department is not aware of any land with appropriate zoning and acreage to support a grocery store that is located within the University neighborhood. This neighborhood is not part of a Redevelopment project area, so help in land assembly from the Agency is problematic. University neighborhood is also bracketed somewhat with competing stores, e.g. Stater Brothers on Iowa and Food-4-Less on Chicago to the west, Ralph's at Canyon Crest, and Von's at the Plaza to the southwest. While not in the immediate neighborhood, the new Super Wal-Mart to be built at Canyon Crossings will include a grocery store, and be somewhat convenient to the neighborhood. At least it will offer one more grocery store option.

The Redevelopment Agency staff is well aware of the neighborhood's need and desire for a grocery store. As redevelopment opportunities arise in the neighborhood, the establishment of a new grocery store remains as a key staff and Agency objective. Staff is working to identify likely redevelopment sites in the Northside/University neighborhood that would be appropriate for the construction of a new grocery store and sharing that information with interested grocery store businesses. For more information, contact Senior Redevelopment Project Area Manager John Curts at (951) 826-5265.

**b) Resident wants to encourage the Fire Department to be more proactive in the community. They stay in firehouse too much.**

In addition to other related duties, in order to provide prompt response to emergency calls, we must balance our time between training, fire prevention duties and community education or events, all of which are priorities addressed in our Fire Department mission statement.

Personnel are required to complete a minimum of 26 hours of monthly training. However personnel usually exceed this requirement, as the many areas of expertise in which we are required to function require many more hours of training for us to be proficient. In addition company officers and engineers (drivers) also have special training requirements along with rookies and driver trainees. There is mandatory state, OSHA and emergency medical training for hazardous materials, confined space rescue, respiratory procedures, blood borne pathogens and emergency medical technicians and paramedics. This training is completed in the stations and at our training facilities.

Personnel are assigned commercial fire inspections in their districts to be completed by October 1 each year. Some have up to 300-plus inspections to complete. In addition there are prefire plans, which have to be completed for new commercial structures along with updating existing plans. Prefire plans are maps of the structures to be used by the firefighters during incidents. These prevention activities allow fire personnel to interact with the business community.

Another priority for the City of Riverside Fire Department is to be actively involved in and with the community. Because of time constraints we try to limit the stations to six events per month. Depending on scheduling we do make exceptions to this and make every effort to accommodate community requests. During the year of 2004 we participated in various events such as station tours, school visits, holiday events and special presentations, such as Mayor's Night Out. These have involved the participation of over 84,000 community members. Through May of 2005 the number has been over 15,000 people.

I hope this addresses your concerns of our community involvement. As you can see we have many activities, which take us out of the station. For further information please Fire Chief Tedd Laycock at (951) 826-5331.

#### **Resident #40**

##### **Does Riverside have any plans to privatize the water system?**

The City has no plans – zero – to privatize the water utility in Riverside, Mayor Loveridge said. Any sale of the Water Utility would require a 2/3 affirmative vote of the residents of Riverside (Riverside Municipal Charter Sec. 1205). For more information, contact Public Utilities' Principal Water Engineer Kevin Milligan at (951) 826-5793.

#### **From University of California, Riverside**

As promised at the June 16th UCR Community Meeting, a new website oriented to the community has been launched. The purpose of the web site to provide city residents and campus neighbors with portal for information, resources and updates that are part of the campus' community. The site can be accessed at [www.community.ucr.edu](http://www.community.ucr.edu).

The intent is for the site to serve as a forum to connect UCR/City with the community. While just launched, I am looking for your feedback as to content, material and the like. The goal is to make this a resource center and information point that the community will find of value.

Please forward to me your comments, concerns, content and any other information you believe would be beneficial. Much of the information was consolidated from other sources, so please let me know if you have other thoughts and/or language that you believe would be more appropriate. This site will be a working site that will evolve overtime to fulfill the needs of the community. For more information, contact Chris Buydos, Executive Director, Government & Community Relations and Technology Collaboration at UCR, at (951) 827-8324.

**The responses to this and other recent Mayor's Night Out are available on the Internet at:**  
**<http://www.riversideca.gov/mayor/nightout.htm>**

**For non-emergency assistance, call the City of Riverside CallCenter at (951) 826-5311**